ARTIST STATEMENT

My animations are about recognizing the agency of all the other-than-human entities with which we share the Earth. This includes plants and animals, as well as trash, machines, "inanimate matter," electricity, the macroscopic and the microscopic. The complex systems I use in my art-making, from photogrammetry to modular synthesizers to 3D animation are analogous to the complexity of the ecosystem. In my art, there is a breakdown in the established order of meaning, nonsense proliferates, and identities become unfixed. This is a challenge to the authoritative, single-minded way of understanding the world that values the accumulative power of 1+1=2 more than anything else.

These videos feature semi-autonomous digital puppets made from 3D scans of trash. They dance, collapse, tremble, and wreck the place. They sing about the end of the world and what comes next. The puppets are made from trash collected along the Mississippi River and Svalbard in the Arctic Circle, locations that are particularly vulnerable to human mistreatment.

The goal is to discover ways of thinking of life with which we share the world as a fragile assemblage of parts (plants, animals, trash, machines, etc.). Recognizing these assemblages, through the literalness of the puppets being built from trash, can inspire us to act with more respect for the other things with which we share the world. By assembling these "things" into digital puppets and anthropomorphizing them, they take on a sense of uncanny life, like that of physical puppets. Project support for Fluvial Effluvia provided by Tri-Star Arts/ Current Art Fund.

CLUB WALRUS, FLUVIAL EFFLUVIA, *and* KNOW NO NOW

by KARL ERICKSON

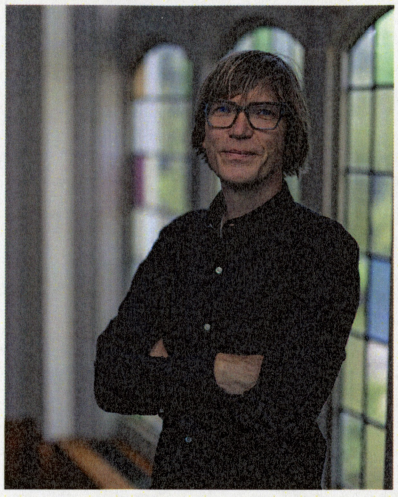
SCREENING ROOM + POP OUT WALLS
03 / 13 / 26 – 06 / 07 / 26

CROSSTOWN ARTS

CROSSTOWN ARTS | 1350 Concourse Ave. | Suite 280 | **crosstownarts.org**

To purchase a piece in the exhibition please contact Stacy Wright at stacy@crosstownarts.org.

100% of all proceeds go to the artist.



ARTIST BIO

Karl Erickson makes digital animations, videos, installations, and audio/visual performances. His key themes are recognizing the agency of the other-than-human, trash, and the physicality of language. A major influence are 1970s' children's shows, with their "anything-goes" spirit. Absurdity is a key component. His work takes place in galleries, museums, film festivals, and music venues.

Recent exhibitions include TSI/Harland Snodgrass Gallery at Alfred University, The Suburban in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the Wrong Biennial. His animation Know No Now has been screened at the 2023 LINOLEUM Animation and Media Art Festival in Kyiv, Ukraine; Chroma Art Film Festival in Miami, FL (where it won the 2023 award for Best Animation); and the 2023 West Virginia Mountaineer Short Film Festival. Other recent screenings include the Fronteras Micro-Film Festival 2025, CURRENTS New Media Festival 2024, and Burano Artificial Intelligence Film Festival 2024.

Erickson will be an artist-in-residence at Surel's Place in Boise, ID in 2026. He has been an artist-in-residence at Hub Feenix in Finland, The Arctic Circle (twice!), Loop Art, Plyspace, and Signal Culture. He is a 2025 recipient of a Current Art Fund award from Tri-Star Arts. His MFA is from California Institute of the Arts and his BFA is from Wayne State University. He lives in Memphis, TN where he is Associate Professor of Digital Art at Rhodes College.

Club Walrus
Digital Animation, 2026, 05:49 minutes

Fluvial Effluvia
Digital Animation, 2026, 02:00 minutes

Know No Now
Digital Animation, 2023, 05:03 minutes

Trash Puppets
3-Channel Digital Animation, 2026, 03:05 minutes

Untitled (Trash Drawing)
Ink on paper, 2026, 14" x 17"
$350

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